

City of Corunna  
Regular Council Meeting  
Monday, September 19, 2005

Present: Corey, Johnson, Mehigh, Sanderson, Spring.

Absent: Runyan (excused), Wagner (excused).

Guests: Joe Sawyer, City Manager; Janet Washburn, Parks & Recreation Director; Judy Horton; Cheryll Warren, The Argus Press; Jerry Walden; and other concerned citizens.

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chambers by Mayor Corey at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING: Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to approve the previous regular meeting minutes dated September 6, 2005 as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Spring.

No: None.

Abstain: Mehigh.

Motion CARRIED

AGENDA APPROVAL: Johnson moved, Spring seconded to approve the agenda as presented by changing Item No. 1) Consider Authorizing Payments to SATA to Item No. 1B, and adding Item No. 1) Excuse Larry Runyan from September 19, 2005 Council Meeting, Item No. 1A) Excuse Dan Wagner from September 19, 2005 Council Meeting, moving Item No. 3) Consider POLC Contract to Item No. 4, making Item No. 3) Discussion on Appointing SATA Representative, and changing Item No. 4 to Executive Session – Consider POLC Contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Mehigh, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

APPROVAL OF VENDOR DISBURSEMENTS: Mehigh moved, Johnson seconded to approve the vendor disbursements as presented.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Sanderson, Mehigh, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CALL TO AUDIENCE: Judy Horton advised the Historical Commission took in a little over \$1,200 during the truck show. There were 48 trucks on display and since no one knew how many trucks were going to be there or how many spectators would come, she felt the commission did reasonably well.

Jerry Walden advised on September 29, 2005, there would be a public meeting with the

Rails to Trails organization. There is a collaborative effort between Shiawassee, Clinton and Ionia counties to turn part of the old rail lines that have been taken out of service into a walking trail and he encouraged council to attend the public meeting. He further advised the county is involved in working on an ordinance involving conditional rezoning, which is new zoning that was passed by law in January. Conditional rezoning allows certain conditions to be placed on a piece of property, which is particularly favorable to the Perry industrial development project. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Walden if he supported Rails to Trails. Mr. Walden advised he had not formed a final opinion yet, but he did have some serious questions that need to be answered first. The county had to close a park recently because it could not be watched over so there are questions about how the sheriffs department would provide coverage and safety and this area is less accessible than the park was. He further advised he also wants to know how the private property owners on each side of the trail will be protected and who would be responsible for liability issues. If these questions cannot be answered to his satisfaction then he could not be supportive. Mayor Corey asked Mr. Walden if he had looked at other Rails to Trails communities because most of them have been very successful. Mr. Walden advised yes but he wants to make sure the liability issue is reasonable.

EXCUSE LARRY RUNYAN FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING: Sanderson moved, Mehig seconded to excuse Councilperson Larry Runyan from the September 19, 2005 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

EXCUSE DAN WAGNER FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2005 COUNCIL MEETING: Johnson moved, Mehig seconded to excuse Councilperson Dan Wagner from the September 19, 2005 council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehig, Spring, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING PAYMENTS TO SATA: Mr. Sawyer advised after the last council meeting, he found that the city had begun disbursements so a letter was written to SATA informing them that no further disbursements would be sent until the city received a proper invoice. The response the city received back was that a letter was sent to the city on May 11, 2005 and that was the invoice, which is all that SATA intended to give the city. He further advised he has no objections to disbursing the funds, but he wanted the council to know that SATA has no intention of giving the city a formal invoice or a budget report showing the short fall. Councilperson Johnson asked if SATA was incapable of sending an invoice or if they were untrained on how to do an invoice because this is how other billings are paid. Councilperson Spring advised he would inform the SATA Board at its next meeting that a more formal invoice should be provided. He further advised it would be in the city's best interest to pay the bill as presented in the letter dated May 11, 2005.

Mayor Corey advised he did not think it would be unreasonable for Corunna to request the anticipated budget changes when the May 11<sup>th</sup> letter was sent. A budget must have been done even though the city does not have a copy, which shows what took place from May 11 to September 30. Councilperson Spring stated it was his understanding that SATA would invoice the city when funds were needed, but if the letter from May 11 is the invoice, then this is something that he will have to address. Johnson moved, Sanderson seconded to instruct the city clerk/treasurer to resume payments to the SATA Board as they come in on the tax roll up to the requested millage for the fiscal year ending September 30.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Mehig, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

CONSIDER OFFICER SUPPORT TO DARE PROGRAM: Mr. Sawyer explained the school system is excited about seeing the DARE program continue in the Corunna Public Schools. He made a proposal to Officer Gary Blahnik that the school system should take over the program and all DARE contributions and donations would go to The school system would then contract with Officer Blahnik directly and he would be paid by them. Mr. Sawyer further explained Officer Blahnik would work outside of his regular shift rotation so it will not affect manpower issues within the police department. He appreciates the support and cooperation from Superintendent John Smith and Officer Blahnik because this is a great way to keep the program running. Mr. Sawyer also explained if grant opportunities come along in the future, the school system would like the city to apply for the grants on behalf of the program, which he does not have an issue with. Corunna Public Schools is also asking that Officer Blahnik be allowed and authorized to wear his Corunna police uniform. Councilperson Spring stated this program has taken a beating over the last few years as to whether or not it is a useful tool, but it is great that the city can have a uniformed officer in the school to show that a police officer can be seen in person instead of just seeing an officer in a car. Mehig moved, Spring seconded to authorize Officer Blahnik to participate in the DARE program with the Corunna Public Schools with resource assistance from city administration.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Johnson, Sanderson, Spring, Mehig.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

DISCUSSION ON APPOINTING SATA REPRESENTATIVE: Mayor Corey advised Bob Buschman's term is up at the end of this month and council needs to discuss whether to make an appointment tonight or wait until the next meeting. Councilperson Mehig stated there was discussion about Larry Runyan taking over the appointment and he asked what Mr. Runyan's status would be when he comes back if Mr. Buschman is reappointed. Mayor Corey advised when there are intergovernmental agreements such as the ambulance service, fire department, airport, and SATA, it might be the responsibility of the city to have a councilperson on those boards since there is money involved. Bob Buschman has done an excellent job and has fought for Corunna, but there has also been some abuse and

political issues that have taken place with the other governments. Councilperson Sanderson stated he would like Mr. Buschman to continue as the representative with the understanding that if and when Larry Runyan comes back that Mr. Buschman would step aside. Councilperson Mehig suggested tabling the issue. Councilperson Spring stated he would not like to see Larry Runyan get into a situation where he would be over extending himself, but the fact that he is willing to step up to the plate goes a long way. Councilperson Spring further stated he would welcome anyone from the council to serve on the SATA board. Councilperson Sanderson stated if it looks like Larry Runyan is not going to be able to come back then maybe one of the remaining councilpeople should get with Councilperson Spring to be briefed. Councilperson Mehig stated the mayor has a lot of expertise with the SATA people and he thought it might be a viable solution to change the rules and procedures to allow the mayor to serve on the SATA Board if he is willing. Mayor Corey suggested tabling the issue for 30 days and advised he did not think council needed to act on the issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - CONSIDER POLC CONTRACT: Johnson moved, Spring seconded to leave the regular session and go into executive session to discuss the POLC contract.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Mehig, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:38 p.m.

Mehig moved, Spring seconded to leave the executive session and return to regular session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Spring, Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:45 p.m.

No action took place during the executive session. Mehig moved, Johnson seconded to accept the POLC contract as presented subject to contract ratification by the union members.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Sanderson, Mehig, Johnson, Spring.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: Councilperson Mehig wished Councilperson Runyan the very best and asked everyone to keep him in their thoughts and prayers.

Councilperson Spring stated he would welcome Mayor Corey to the SATA Board.

Councilperson Johnson stated her mother-in-law, Linda Johnson, was in town for 11 days and she wanted her to give everyone a thumbs up for a job well done. She thought the city looked absolutely beautiful and the park looked fantastic. Mr. Sawyer asked how long it

had been since she was in town. Councilperson Johnson advised five years.

Councilperson Sanderson stated he wanted to wish the best for Councilperson Runyan.

ADJOURN: Mehigh moved, Sanderson seconded to adjourn.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mehigh, Spring, Johnson, Sanderson.

No: None.

Motion CARRIED Time was 7:50 p.m.

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STEVE COREY, MAYOR

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NICHOLE COWDREY, CITY CLERK/TREASURER